

PHOTOGRAPHIC VIEWS  
EN ROUTE TO THE  
KLONDIKE

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*F. La Roche*



PHOTOGRAPHIC VIEWS  
EN ROUTE TO  
**THE KLONDIKE**  
VIA THE  
SKAGUAY AND DYEA TRAILS

... COMPRISING ...

A Series of Photographs showing the Klondike as it really is.

... INCLUDING ...

ACCURATE AND AUTHENTIC VIEWS PORTRAYING THE  
METHOD OF PACKING SUPPLIES BY HORSES, BURROS,  
DOGS AND OXEN; MANNER OF TOWING PROVISIONS  
UP THE RIVERS; FREIGHTING BY CANOES. . . . .

Picturesque Lake Linderman; the famous Chilkoot Pass route  
over the mountains; fording the Rapids and incidents  
of camp life in the placer mines of Alaska.



W. B. CONKEY COMPANY  
CHICAGO   •••  NEW YORK

1892

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CANADA AND AUSTRALIA

# INTRODUCTORY.



As a resident of Seattle, "The Gateway of the New Eldorado," I was brought directly into touch with the actual circumstances surrounding the discovery of gold in the Yukon Valley. "Seeing is believing," and realizing that many conflicting statements had been made regarding this interesting region, I decided to organize a party for the purpose of taking views along the Skakuay and Dyea trails, in order that prospective gold seekers might see for themselves the route they must travel in going to the Klondike. The series of photographs here presented embody an authentic itinerary of a trip to the gold fields of Alaska and show the Klondike as it really is. In procuring these views my object was not merely to select picturesque scenes but to faithfully portray noteworthy points and objects of interest in a journey to the Valley of the Yukon, and they will afford many suggestions to those who have decided to hazard their fortunes in the Placer mines of the Northwest. To others, a panorama of Alaskan scenes should prove exceedingly interesting.

F. LA ROCHE.

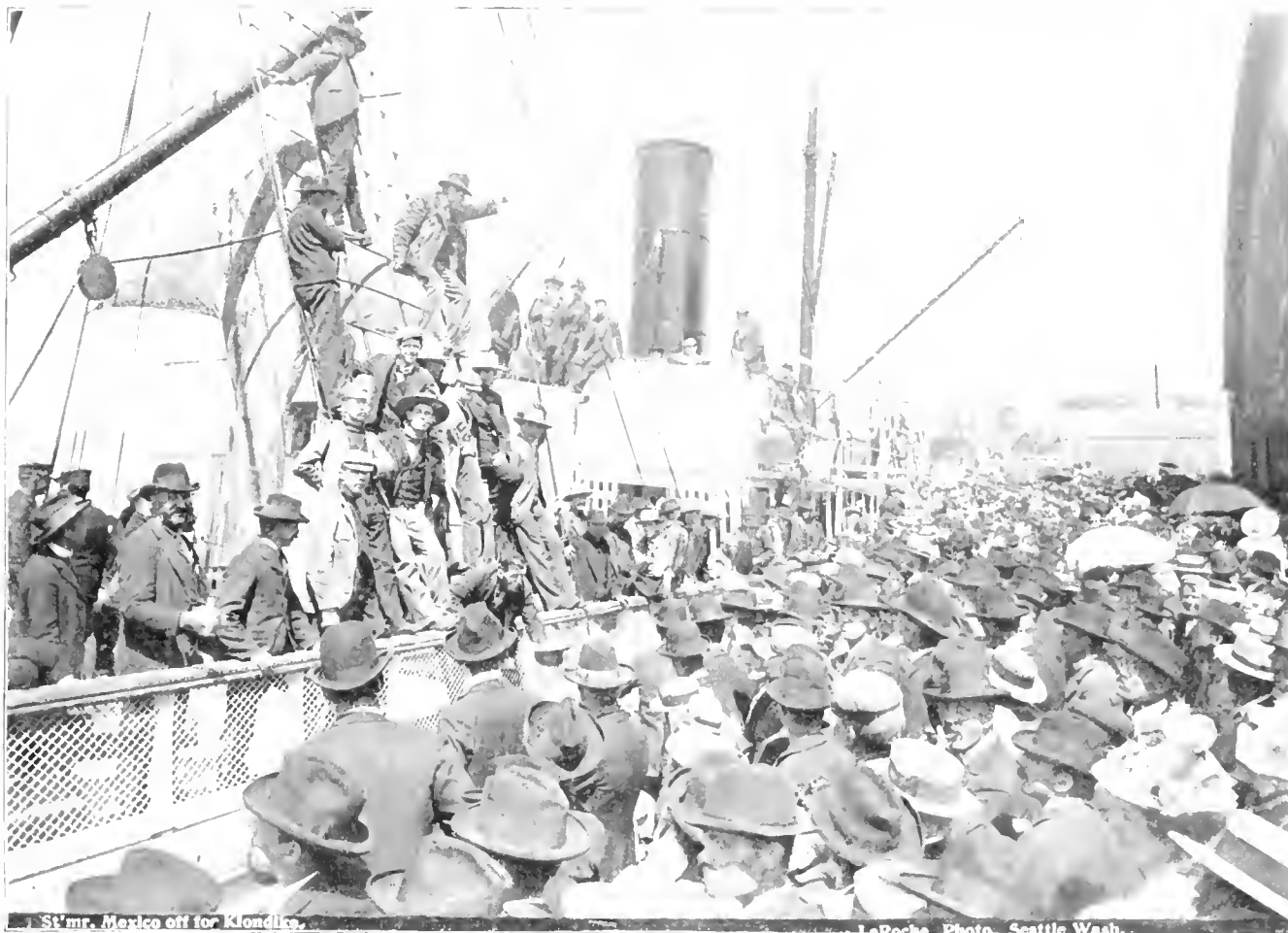


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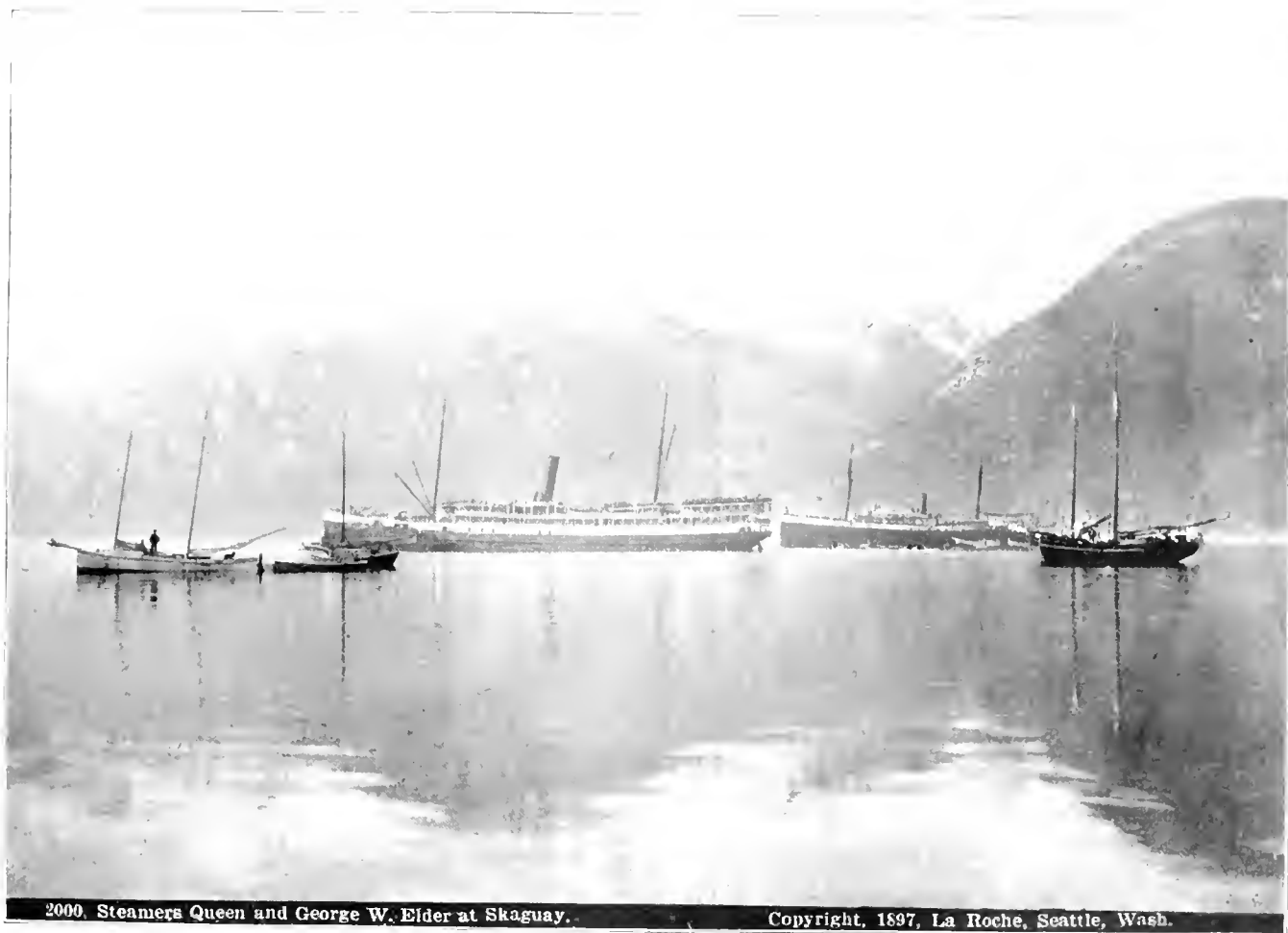
St. Mr. Mexico off for Klondike.

La Roche Photo Seattle Wash.

OFF FOR KLONDIKE. The steamer "Mexico" leaving Seattle last day with 400 passengers and 400 tons of provisions and supplies for the Klondike gold fields. "God does not give us many scenes like this," says the poet laureate Miller, whose striking figure is clearly outlined on the upper deck, who goes to describe to a waiting world the new El Dorado and the journey thither. Mr. Miller can be plainly seen in the engraving, as indicated by the "x" above his head. — 2001.







2000. Steamers Queen and George W. Elder at Skagway.

Copyright, 1897, La Roche, Seattle, Wash.

STEAMERS AT SKAGWAY. The excursion steamer "Queen" and the steamship "Geo. W. Elder" at Skagway, Skagway Harbor, head of steamship navigation on Lynn Canal, 100 miles from Juneau and 684 miles from Seattle. Skagway, point of departure for the Skagway Trail leading over White Pass, about a half mile distant, Dyer about six miles around the point of land on the right. (2000.)





1. Steamer "Queen" unloading Kiondikers and their outfits upon scow at Dyea. Although Dyea is the point of departure for the Chilkoot Pass, wharf facilities were then only in process of construction, and the hundreds of goldseekers who crossed the Chilkoot during the past summer were taken from the steamers in this manner.

2. On Trail near Sheep Camp. Approaching the timber line among the rocks and stumps; and the not very comfortable portion of the route.

3. Scow load of Kiondikers being towed ashore at Dyea. As the tide rises here between twenty and thirty feet, the scows are towed near shore at the flood and at the ebb are left high and dry on the sandy beach. Warriors are driven out as soon as the receding water permits and passengers and freight transferred to them.

4. Indians towing canoe up Dyea River. One of the many methods of taking outfits up the Dyea River to head of canoe navigation. Here you see two Indians wading in the river pulling the boat with a rope, while the squaws sit in the canoe to guide it.





2002. Burro Pack Train, Dyea Point

Copyright 1897 La Roche Seattle Wash

BURRO PACK TRAIN, DYE A POINT. By this means supplies are taken for some distance up the trail. During the past summer the charge was 38 cents per pound from Dyea over the Chik'oot Pass to Lake Underman, a distance of twenty nine miles. There were comparatively few pack animals on the Dyea trail last summer, but the charges were about the same whatever means of packing were employed. (2002.)





2003. Healy & Wilson's Store, Dyea.

Copyright, 1897, La Roche, Seattle, Wash.

HEALY & WILSON'S STORE, DYEAL, AND OLD TRADING POST AND POST OFFICE.—Here too is the Chilkoot Indian village and 100 or more tents of the Indian packers. These Indians found the past summer an astonishingly profitable one, by reason of the great rush to the gold fields, and they are naturally looking forward to the coming year with great expectation. (2003.)







2004 Klondike Wagon Loaded with Provisions.

Copyright, 1897, La Roche, Seattle, Wash.

KLONDIKE WAGON LOADED WITH PROVISIONS. An enterprising Dyea storekeeper had a dozen of these wagons which he rented for \$1 an hour. An advance payment of \$20 had to be made to secure the owner against unforeseen accident or lapse of memory. These carts carried a load of from 600 to 1,000 pounds, thus enabling a whole outfit to be moved at once. (2004)





2005. Forty Indian Canoes at Dyea

Copyright, 1897, La Roche, Seattle, Wash.

INDIAN CANOES. Forty Indian canoes at Dyea on Sunday, on which day the Chilkoots will not work for any price, most of them are consistent members of the Presbyterian church, thoroughly trustworthy, and, as packers, to be preferred to white men. Their church services are held each Sunday at Dyea in a tent. These canoes when loaded are towed about six miles up Dyea River to head of canoe navigation. (2005.)





Don-A-Wok, Old Chilkoot Chief and Chief Isaac. Copyright, 1897, La Roche, Seattle.

DON-A-WOK, OLD CHILKOOT CHIEF, AND CHIEF ISAAC. Don-A-Wok is nearly eighty years old and ruler of all the Chilkoots. Isaac is the active chief and general contractor for packing. There is an air of dignity and respectability about these men which will impress anyone most favorably. The elder chief cannot speak English, but most of the





2010 Four Men Hitched to Cart, Fording Dyea River.

Copyright, 1897, La Roche, Seattle, Wash.

FORDING DYEY RIVER.—Fording Dyea River at the second crossing, about two miles above the first. These men are crossing with perhaps 1,000 pounds of provisions. In September the river here was not far from 100 feet wide and 18 inches deep. In spring the melting snows sometimes increases the depth of water to four feet or more. (2010.)





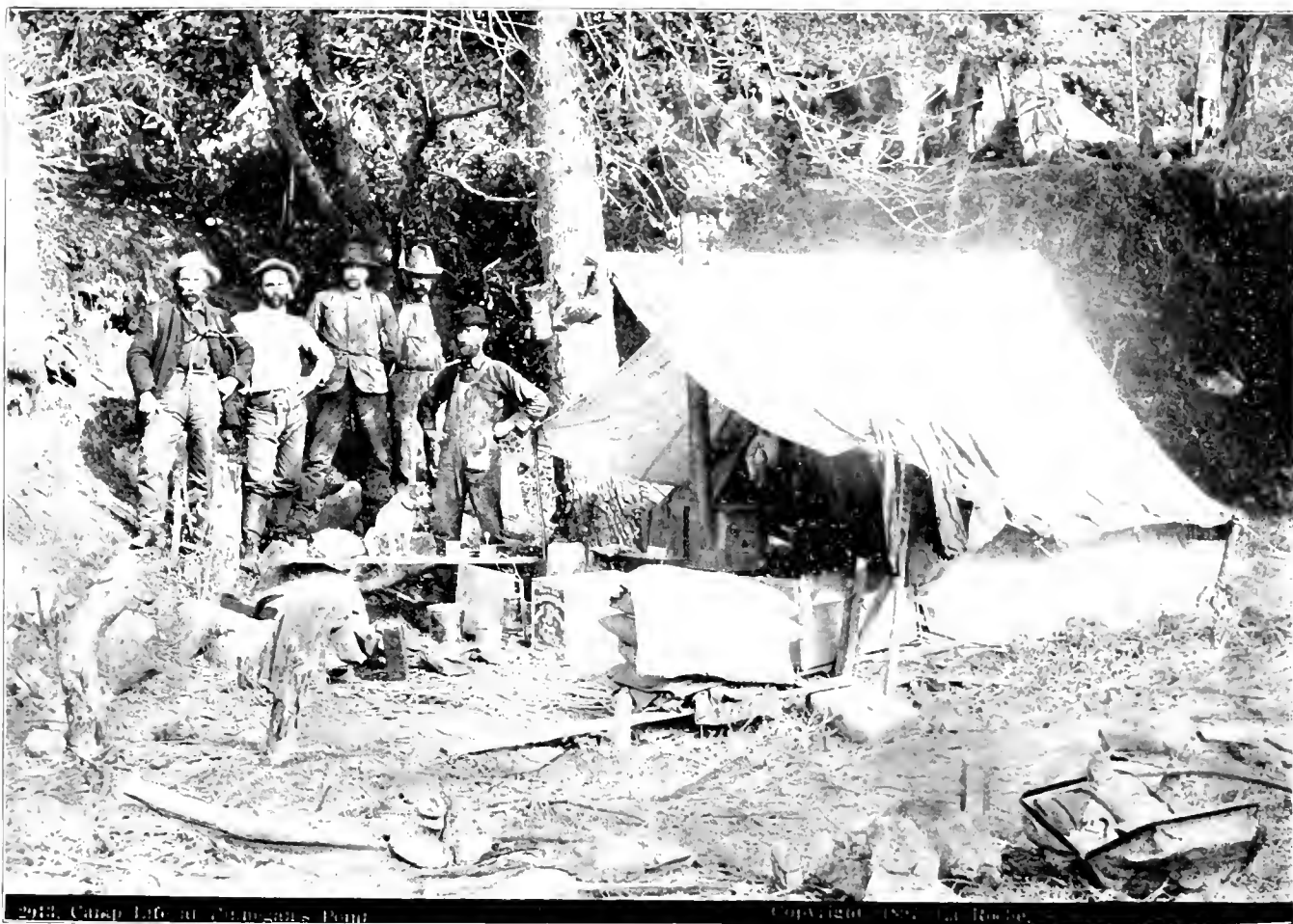


Towing Provisions up Dyea River.

Copyright, 1897, La Roche & Son, Wash.

TOWING PROVISIONS UP DYEA RIVER. Which exhibits another method of moving supplies on toward the gold fields. Twelve hundred pounds are here loaded upon a flat-bottomed boat, which is being pulled upstream to the head of canoe navigation, about six miles north of Dyea. (2011.)





2913. Camp life at Finnegan's Point.

Copy 1260 1894 La Roche.

CAMP LIFE AT FINNEGAN'S POINT. This is but one of the seventy-five camps in this neighborhood at the time this view was made. This point is where the river is forded for the last time, the crossing farther up being made on logs. Each individual camp exists only until all the supplies belonging to it are packed to some point farther on. (2013.)



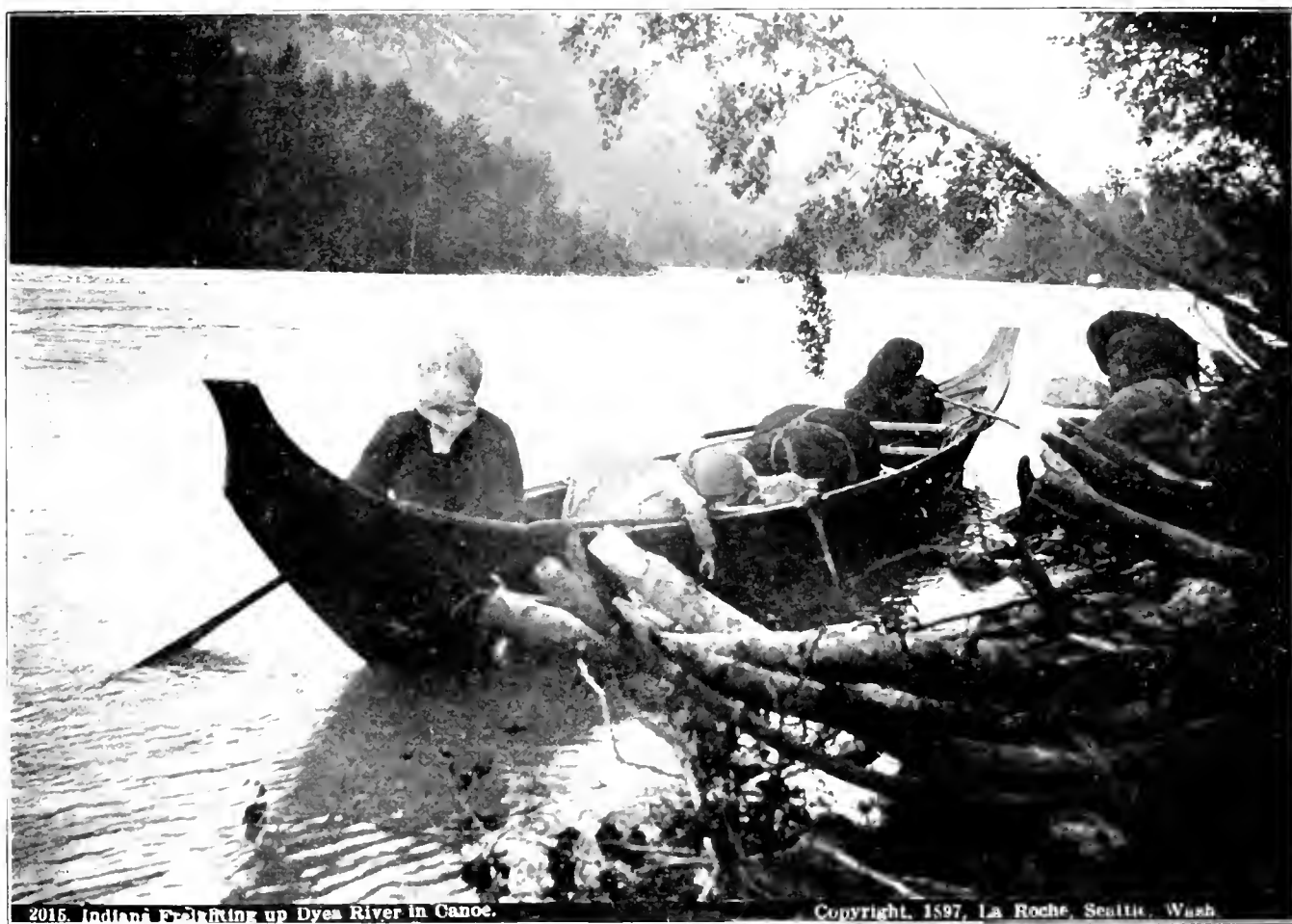


2014. Actresses on Way to Klondike Fording Dyea River.

Copyright, 1907, L.A. Roche, Seattle, Wash.

A PARTY OF VARIETY ACTRESSES ON CONTRACT FOR TWO SEASONS AT DAWSON CITY. A provision of the contract called for their transportation from Juneau to Dawson in eighteen days, a remarkably quick trip. Four of them are here fording the river with high rubber boots, while the fifth, not so well supplied, is being carried across the stream. (2014.)





2015. Indians Freightin' up Dyea River in Canoe.

Copyright, 1897, La Roche, Seattle, Wash.

INDIANS FREIGHTING UP DYEA RIVER WITH CANOES, the squaws riding and guiding, the men on ahead towing with long ropes. These boats are regular dug-outs, made from large timber, and drawing but eight inches of water, yet carrying a thousand pounds or more of freight. (2015.)







2016. Indians Poling Canoe up Dyea River.

Copyright 1897. La Roche, Seattle, Wash.

INDIANS POLING CANOE UP DYEA RIVER.— These are Metlakatlee Indians from the mission schools three or four hundred miles below. They have in transit a knock down boat, the bow of which is plainly visible. They received \$200 for taking two such boats from head of canoe navigation to the summit of the Chilkoot, a distance of 10½ miles. (2016.)





**PACK OXEN ON DYEA TRAIL.** In the foreground are four Indian packers returning from the summit of Chilkoot, having made \$18 each for their day's labor. Oxen are regarded as the most desirable of all pack animals in summer. One of these was killed at Lake Linderman, and the heart sold for \$7, the head for \$12.50, and the balance of the animal for 50 cents a pound. (2018.)





2019. Dogs Packing on Dyea Trail.

Copyright, 1897, La Roche, Seattle, Wash.

DOGS PACKING ON DYE A TRAIL. Dogs are most valuable in winter, as they are then attached to sleds and will draw 125 pounds twenty miles or more a day, five or six being usually harnessed to each sled. On the river bank may be seen two of the knock-down boats awaiting the packers. (2019.)





2024. South From Foot of Canyon. Dyer Trall.

Copyright, 1897, La Roche, Seattle, Wash.

LOOKING SOUTH FROM FOOT OF DYE CANON.—Showing at a glance the route thus far traversed for a distance of seven miles or more. The country here gives every evidence of having been at some past time the bed of a great glacial river between one and two miles wide. (2024.)







2026. A Packer's Home, Foot of Canyon, Dyea Trail:

Copyright, 1897, L. A. Roche, Seattle, Wash.

A PACKER'S HOME, FOOT OF DYLA CANYON.—Showing how readily a temporary abiding place may be improvised by spreading a tablecloth across poles which lean against the towering walls of the cañon. This style of architecture would not seem to afford much protection against an Arctic winter, but serves to exclude some of the summer's sun and rain. (2026).





2027. Washing Out Gold.

Copyright, 1897, La Roche, Seattle, Wash.

WASHING OUT GOLD No one except the person who has actually assisted in the work of making the test shown above can fully appreciate the intense anxiety at such a moment. The result may mean a great deal- it may mean nothing. If the latter, the only thing to do is to move the camp and make another trial. (2027.)





2030. Dyce Trail Blocked by Falling Horse.

Copyright, 1897, La Roche, Seattle, Wash.

DYCE TRAIL BLOCKED BY FALLEN HORSE.—Showing the toilsome march of a pack train, as in Indian life it pursues its arduous way. A fallen horse in front has compelled all to stop until the animal is unloaded and assisted to regain its feet. Here too is shown in the foreground two men carrying a section of a boat; but even short as it appears, they were compelled, a little farther on, to cut it in two to enable them to take it through. (2030.)





2031. Collecting Toll, Dyea Trail

Copyright, 1897, La Roche, Seattle, Wash.

COLLECTING TOLL, DYEA TRAIL. The toll bridge, where 50 cents is charged for each horse belonging to a miner, in return for which the trail is kept passable for a distance of some six miles, is ten miles from Dyea, in a region quite thickly wooded with Alaska cedar, five miles from "The Scales," and five and one-half miles from the summit of Chilkoot Pass. (2031.)







FRONT STREET AT SHEEP CAMP SETTLEMENT. This is the principal camp on the Dyer Trail. In August and September there were a thousand or more people encamped here. The log structure on the left was the leading hotel, where you might eat for 75 cents, and sleep on the floor for 50 cents, if you furnished your own bedding. Beyond here a meal could not be had at any price. (2033.)





4002 Sheep Camp, Dyea Trail.

Copyrighted, 1897 by L. A. Nichols.

SHEEP CAMP, LOOKING SOUTH. A bird's-eye view of the Sheep Camp, so called from the mountain sheep which were formerly plentiful in this section. Just above the tent on the left may be seen the last log crossing of Dyea River. To the right of this are a number of tents destroyed by the glacier which fell about the middle of September. 2012





PACKERS ON DYER TRAIL, NEAR STONE HOUSE. About two and a half miles from Sheep Camp and half mile from Stone House. Here the timber has disappeared and beyond is all a waste of rock and ice. In the foreground on the left is a squaw packing





NEAR SCALES, SHOWING SUMMIT OF CHILKOOT PASS. Among the barren rocks, with the Chilkooot summit in the distance, at the indenture just above the trail at the skyline. (2038.)





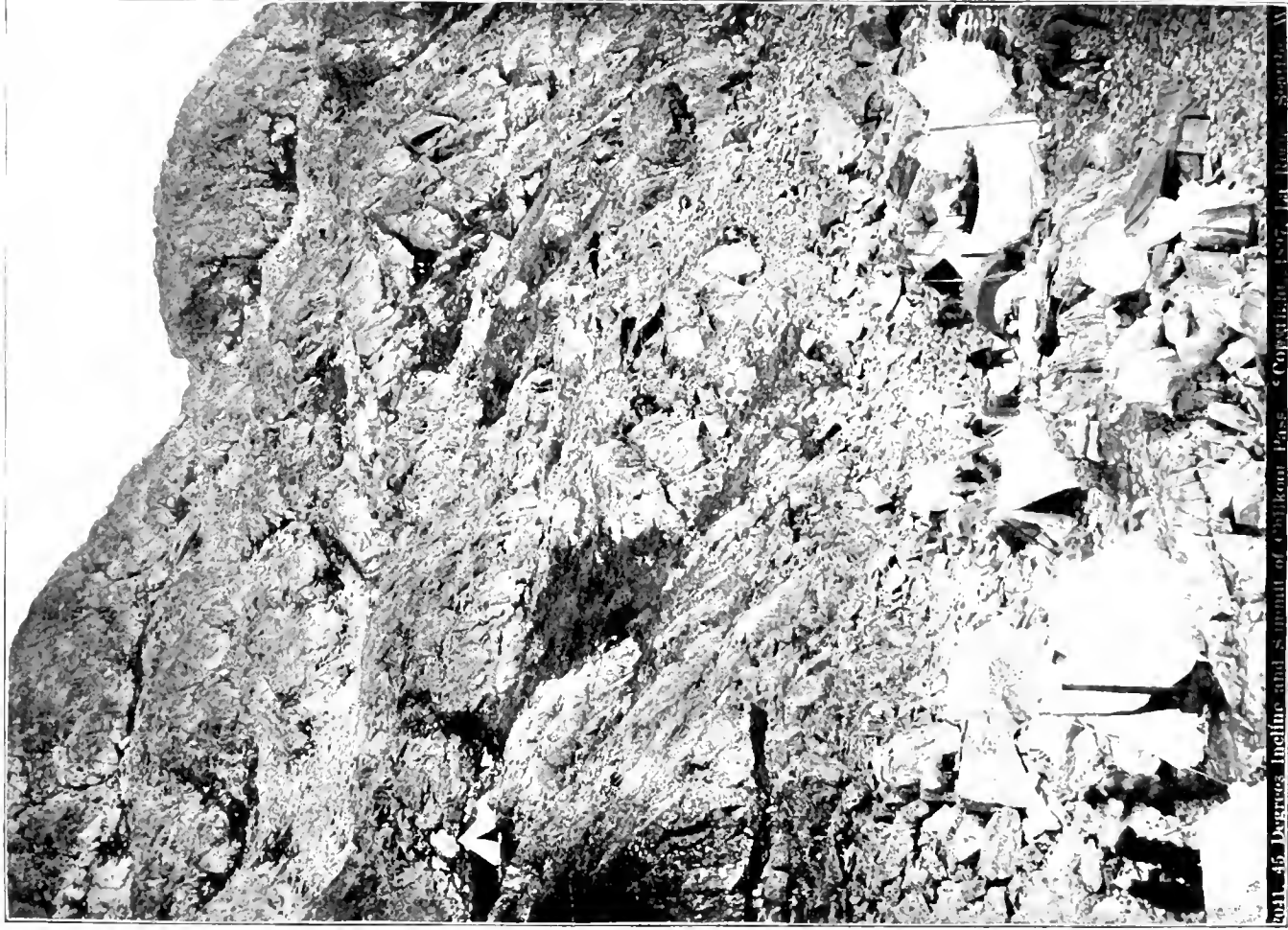


2039. Pack Horses on Edge of Precipice, Chilkoot Pass.

Copyright, 1897, La Roche, Seattle, Wash.

PACK HORSES ON EDGE OF PRECIPICE, CHILKOOT PASS.— This is the end of the available trail for pack animals fifteen miles from Dyea. Animals have been taken over the pass from this point, but without load, and usually with considerable effort. (2039.)





5031. 45 Degrees incline and summit of Chilkooot Pass. Copyright 1907, J. Ross Searle. W

FORTY-FIVE DEGREE INCLINE AND SUMMIT OF CHILKOOT PASS. This is the most difficult and dreaded portion of the journey, the trail rising here eleven feet in half a mile over a perfect maze of broken rock. In this photograph may be seen an almost continuous line of white specks reaching to the depression at the summit. Each is a human being with pack upon back, toiling slowly upward. (2014)





1011: Near the Summit of Chilkooot Pass. Showing the difficult pathway being

traversed by the goldseekers. The pass has been filled with columns of sensational rubbish about the perils and horrors of this pass. It is only about 3,350 feet above the sea level and the road is much like other rugged mountain trails, and women and children have often gone over in summer. (2013)





2037, Looking South from Summit of Chilkoot Pass

Copyright, 1917, La Roche, Seattle, Wash

LOOKING SOUTH FROM SUMMIT OF CHILKOOT PASS. A magnificent panorama of a route traversed for the last seventy-five years by the Indians and during the past summer by at least 4,000 goldseekers. It was the glacier on the right that broke, destroying a number of tents on the Sheep Camp, in September. (2037.)







2044. On the Summit of Chilkooot Pass.

Copyright, 1897, Geo. Roche, Seattle, Wash.

ON THE SUMMIT OF CHILKOOT PASS. Showing the character of this route over the mountains, with its huge blocks of broken granite scattered about in the most mextricable confusion. (2044.)





Glacier, Summit of Chilkoot Pass.

LaRoche Photo, Seattle Wash

GLACIER, SUMMIT OF CHILKOOT PASS. -The man on the left is packing a section of a boat, in the foreground is an Alaskan glacier. The dark shadows show the meeting point of two trails over the snow fields. (2045.)





CRATER LAKE, DYEA TRAIL. A marvelous panorama, with snow-capped mountain peaks in the distance. Crater Lake is an exquisitely colored sheet of water some two miles long, across which travelers are ferried in summer for 50 cents each. (2016.)





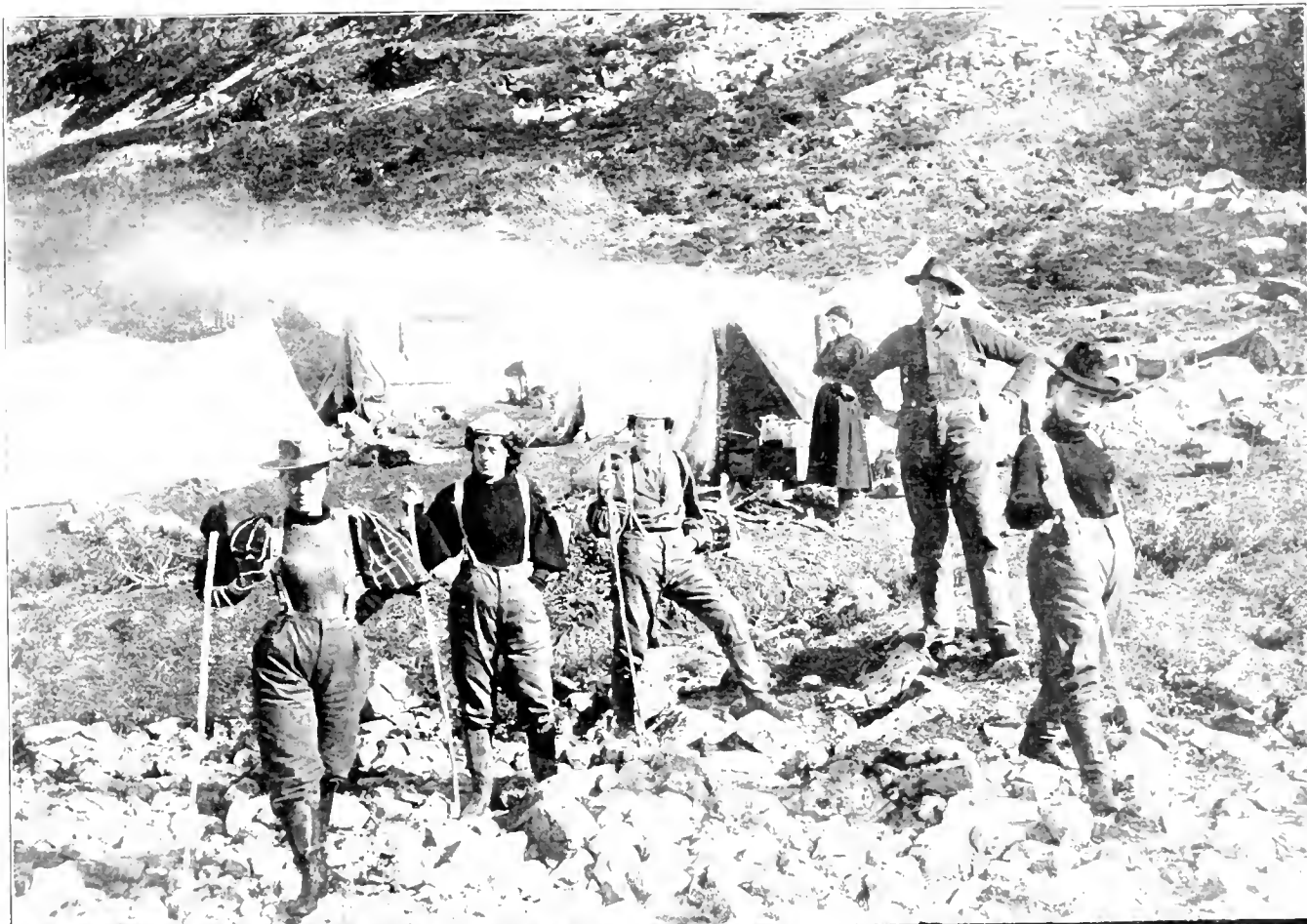
2048. 50 Tons Provisions Stored at Crater Lake, Dyea Trail.

Copyright, 1897, La Roche, Seattle, Wash

FIFTY TONS OF PROVISIONS STORED AT CRATER LAKE, which have been freighted across the lake in the flat bottomed canoe seen in the foreground and now lie scattered about among the rocks awaiting transportation through the rocky defile leading onward from the right of the photograph, a distance of one and one-half miles, to Happy Camp. (2048.)







2049. Actresses Bound for the Klondike, at Happy Camp.

Copyright, 1897, L. A. Roche, Seattle, Wash.

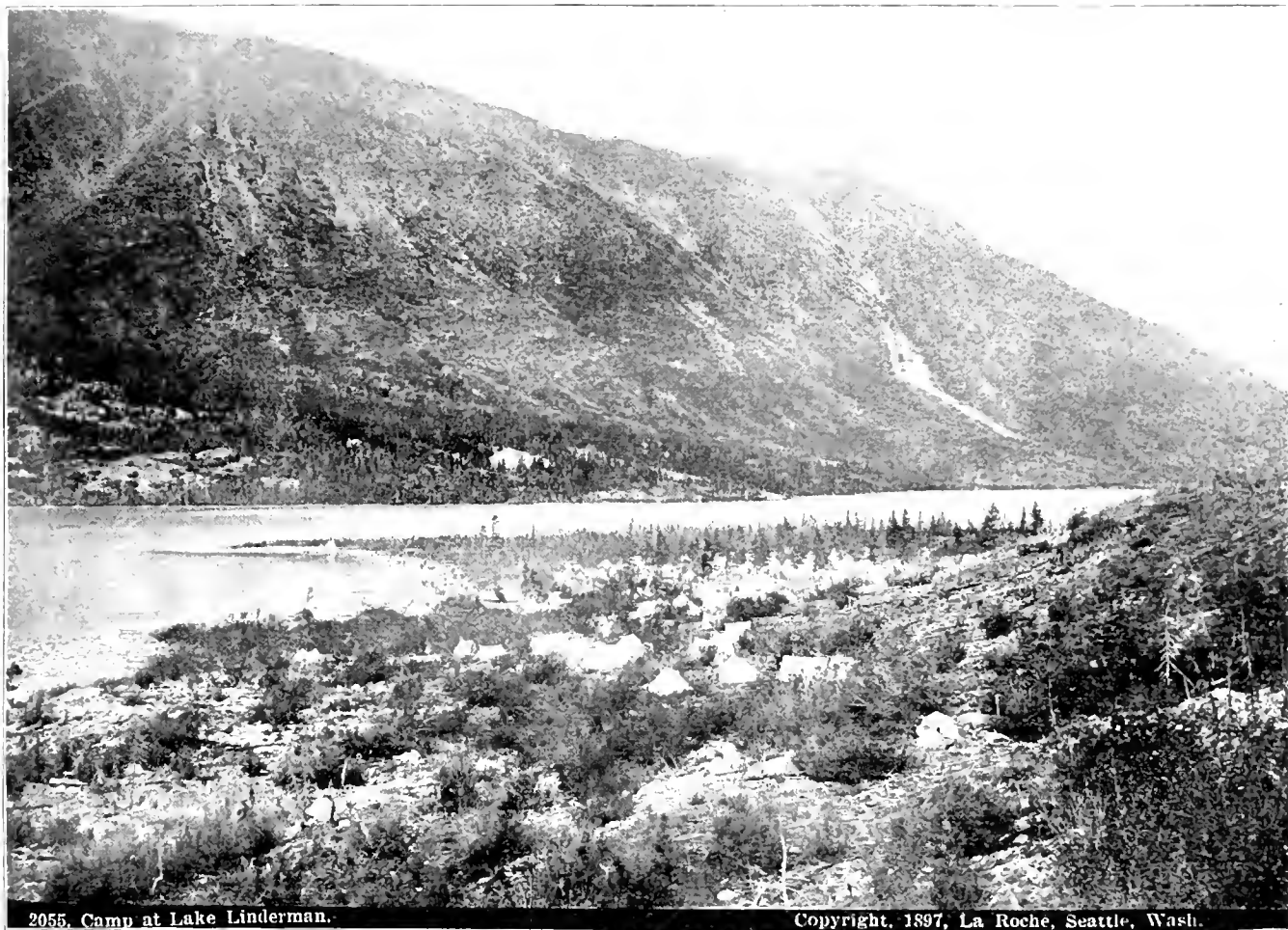
ACTRESSES BOUND FOR THE KLONDIKE, AT HAPPY CAMP:- They have crossed the pass and are now fifteen miles from the point at which we first saw them fording the river. They have discarded skirts and are wearing a costume better fitted for mountain climbing and long marches. They have apparently enjoyed the trip thus far, but are still 500 miles from their destination, Dawson City. (2049.)





REV. MR. YOUNG AND DR. McEWEN, PRESBYTERIAN MISSIONARIES BOUND FOR KLONDIKE, AT LONG LAKE. All classes of people are on the way to the golden North—missionaries as well as variety actresses. Rev. Mr. Young, on the left, is one of the oldest mission workers in Alaska, having established the mission at Fort Wrangel many years ago. (2050.)



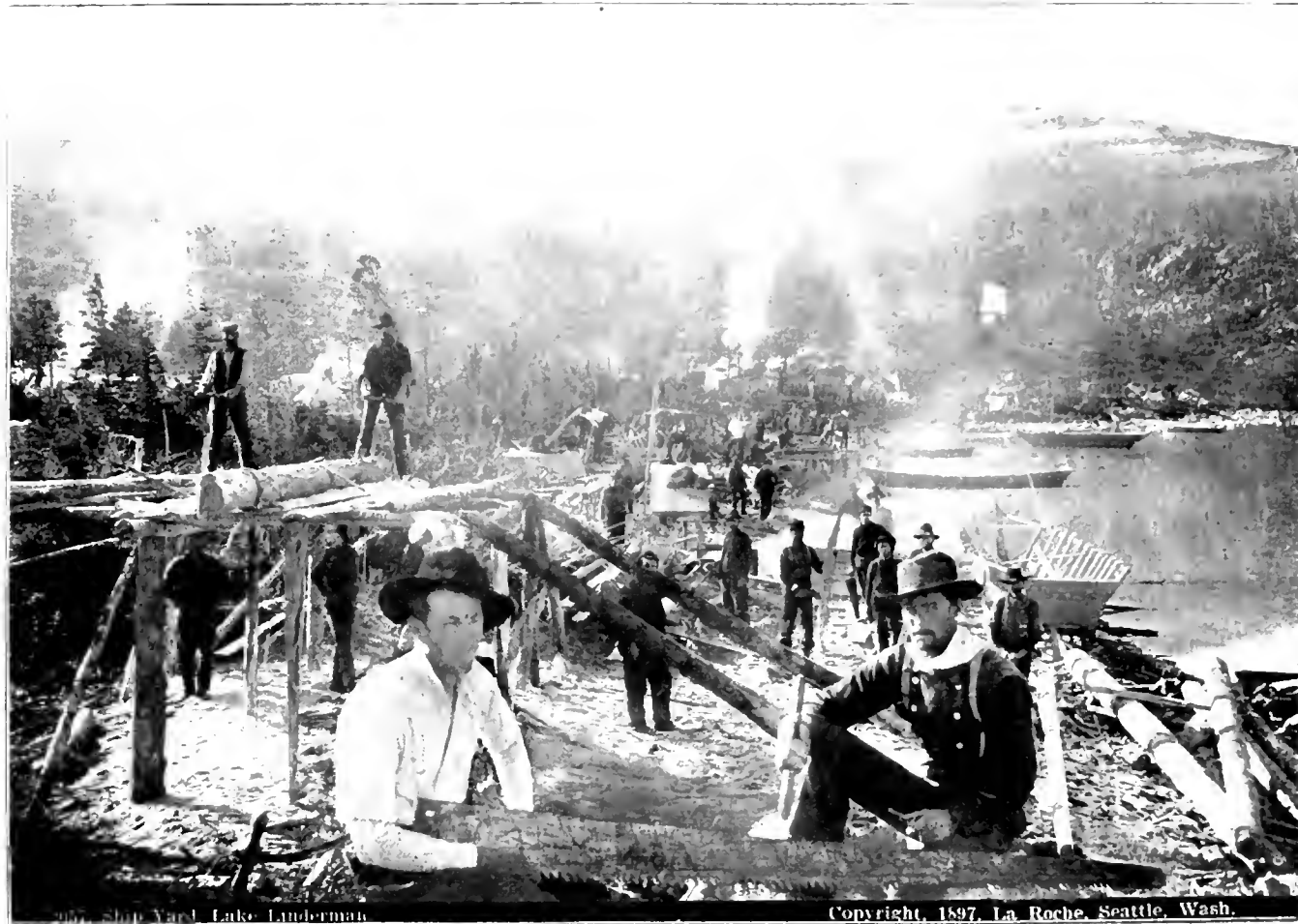


2055. Camp at Lake Linderman.

Copyright, 1897, La Roche, Seattle, Wash.

CAMP AT LAKE LINDERMAN. Four miles beyond the mission camp we have this bird's-eye view of Lake Linderman Camp, containing, when the view was taken in September, 1897, 400 tents, and at least 1,000 people, mainly engaged in the building of boats for transportation of themselves and outfits on through lakes and rivers to the gold fields. (2055.)





Ship Yard, Lake Linderman

Copyright, 1897, La Roche, Seattle, Wash.

SHIP YARD, LAKE LINDERMAN—Without doubt the busiest scene along the whole route. Scores of men were here, always at work constructing boats for descending the waterways to the Yukon. Timber is found in the immediate vicinity, and logs of about seven inches in diameter are cut to desired length, rolled upon a staging and whipsawed into the required shape. Thus a week or more is employed in building a boat for the long journey north. (2057.)







2058. Leaving Head of Lake Linderman for the Klondike.

Copyright, 1897, La Roche, Seattle, Wash.

LEAVING HEAD OF LAKE LINDERMAN FOR THE KLONDIKE. These boats are fully loaded, and are leaving for the North; and, with favorable weather, the journey can be made to Dawson City in about two weeks. If winds are favorable, the sail is used; if not, the boat is rowed the length of Lake Linderman - six miles - to the rapids. Half-way down the lake is the boundary line between Alaska and Canada. (2058.)



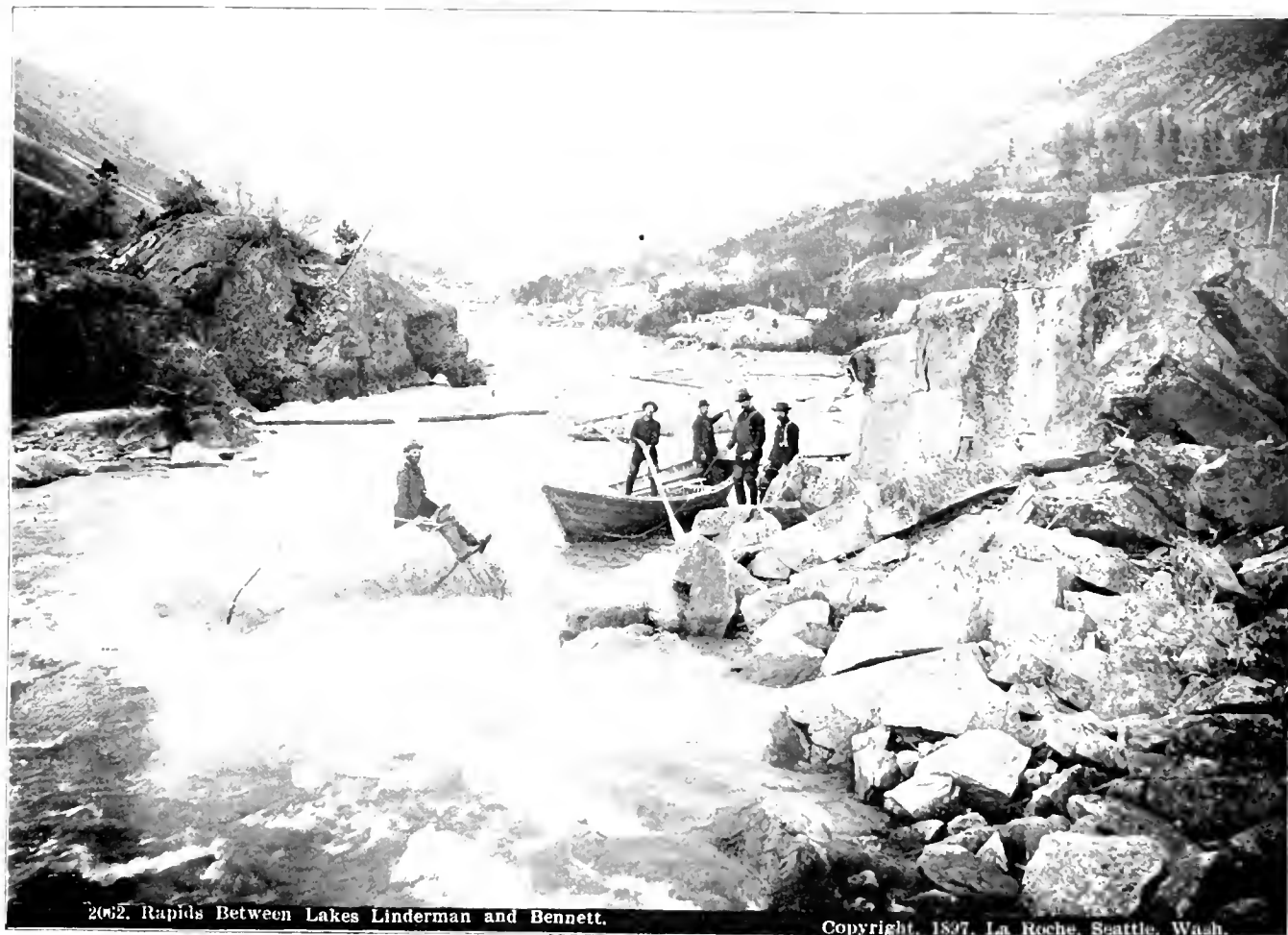


End of Skaguay Trail, Lake Linderman.

Copyright, 1897, La Roche, Seattle, Wash.

END OF SKAGUAY TRAIL, LAKE LINDERMAN.—Dyea Trail, around the point on the left, six miles away, at the head of the lake. From the lake, the Skaguay or White Pass Trail leads up over the incline among the woods in the foreground. At the foot of the incline is a quantity of supplies awaiting packers. (2065.)





RAPIDS BETWEEN LAKES LINDERMAN AND BENNETT. Around which all goods are carried, and the empty boats carefully floated through the rapids by means of ropes. The camp in the background is that of the Canadian police, where the customs collections will likely be made another year, although up to September none were made. In the distance is Lake Bennett. (2062.)

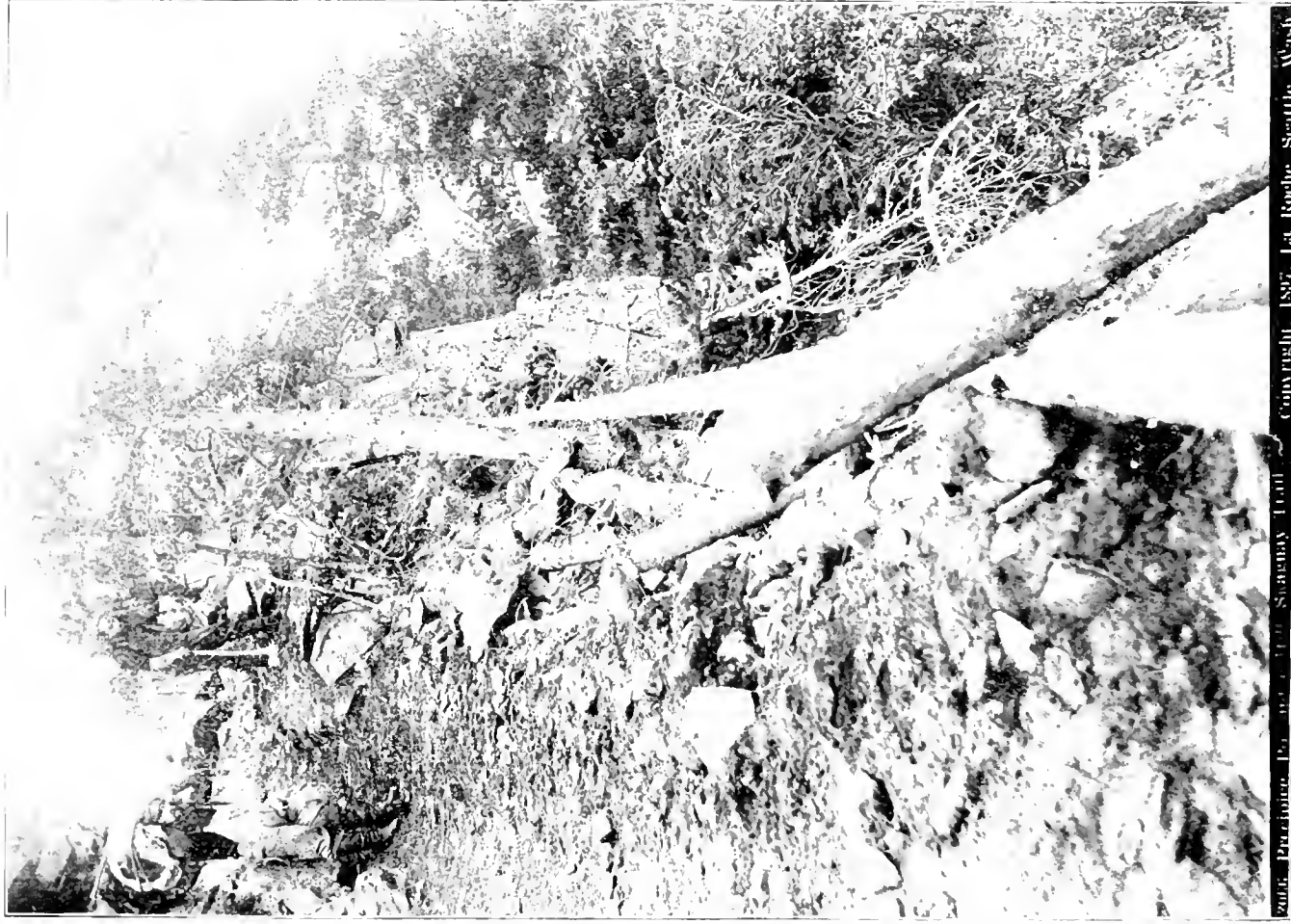




LAKE BENNETT. There is often a disagreeable and vexatious delay, owing to high winds that prevail here from the north, making it dangerous to cross with small boats. (2063.)







2046. PRECIPICE, PORCUPINE HILL, SKAGWAY TRAIL. Copyright, 1897, La Roche, Seattle, Wash.

PRECIPICE, PORCUPINE HILL, SKAGWAY TRAIL. This trail leads through a multitude of wet places along the borders of the lakes and swamps, and the distance from Skagway to Lake Lindeman is between forty and fifty miles. This is known as the precipice at the summit of Porcupine Hill, a perpendicular wall one hundred feet high, from which dead horses could be seen when this view was taken, from two of which the packs had not been removed, all of which had slipped and fallen to their death. (1896.)





ON PORCUPINE INCLINE, SKAGWAY TRAIL. What is known as the switch-back, one and a half miles below the precipice, a zigzag path among the rocks and trees. In the background is seen a loaded horse on its way to Lake Linderman. The Indians will not use this trail. (2007.)





2069. Hungry Man's Retreat at Porcupine Creek, Skaguay  
Trail

Copyright, 1897, La Roche, Seattle, Wash.

HUNGRY MAN'S RETREAT AT PORCUPINE CREEK, SKAGUAY TRAIL. A restaurant in the wilderness where you pay a dollar for a meal and often get what you are not looking for. Yet one's appetite is such, after these weary marches, that anything is eaten with a relish. (2069.)





2070. Bridge over Porcupine Creek, Skaguay Trail.

COPYRIGHT, 1897, LA ROCHE, SEATTLE, WASH.

BRIDGE OVER PORCUPINE CREEK, SKAGUAY TRAIL. This bridge is about seven miles from Skaguay. From here to the summit of Porcupine Hill the trail leads through a thickly wooded district along the side of the mountain, this is bad climbing up sharply for 700 feet. The time allowed for climbing four mules is usually four hours. (2070.)







2074. Pack Train at Little Lake, Skaguay Trail

Copyright, 1897, La Roche, Seattle, Wash.

PACK TRAIN AT LITTLE OR BLACK LAKE, SKAGUAY TRAIL.—This beautiful lake is about five miles from Skaguay, with the trail leading along the left-hand shore for a distance of about one-half mile; the opposite shore is a perpendicular bluff from 100 to 600 feet high. (2074.)





2079, Blacksmith Shop, Skaguay.

Copyright, 1897, La Roche, Seattle, Wash.

BLACKSMITH SHOP AT SKAGUAY. Here the blacksmith charges \$6 for shoeing a horse and \$15 for shoeing oxen; in the latter part of August, 1897, during the horseshoe nail famine, as much as \$1 was paid for a nail. (2079.)



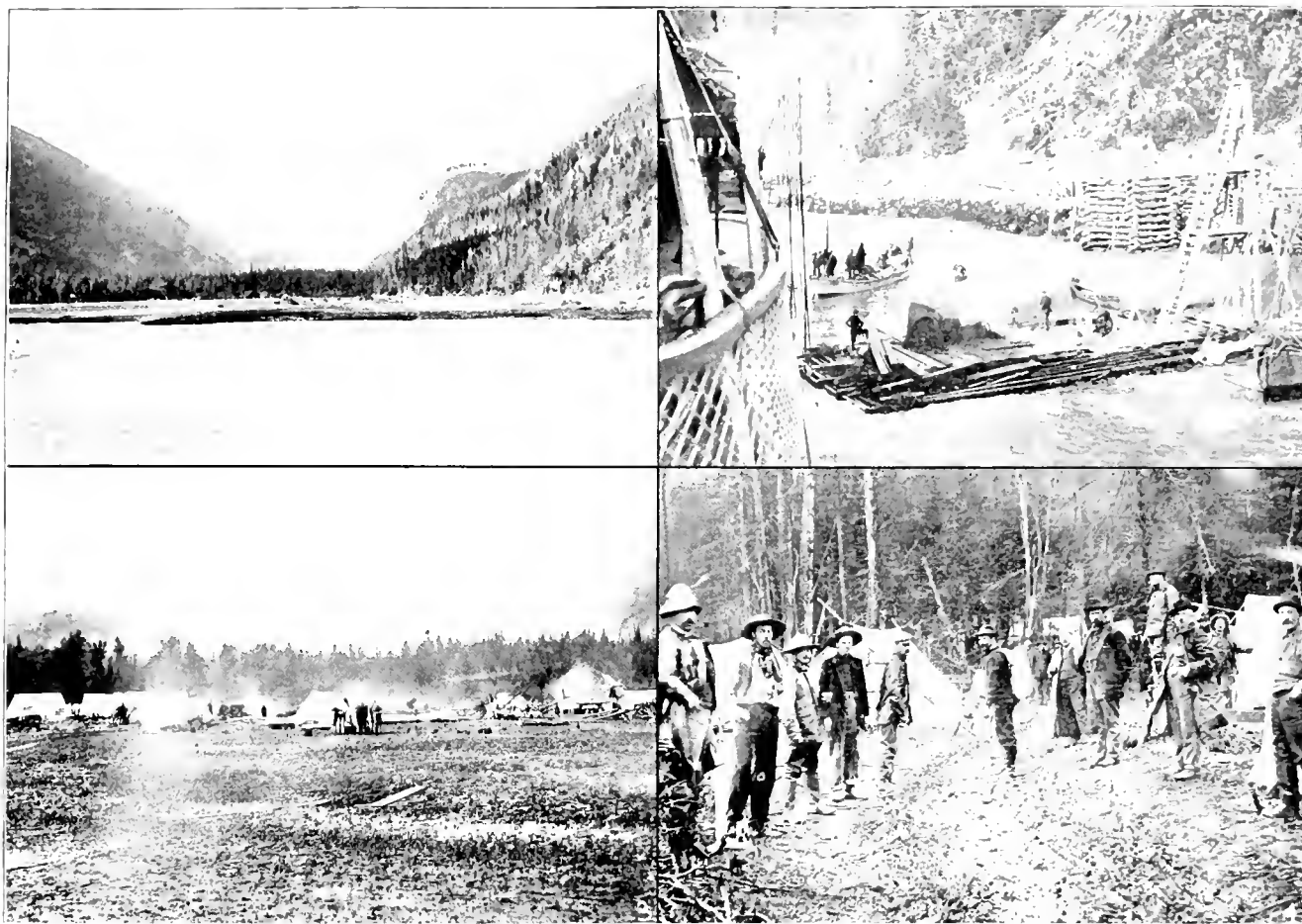


2087 Skaguay at High Tide, Sept. 12, 1897.

Copyright, 1897, L. A. Roche, Seattle, Wash.

SKAGUAY AT HIGH TIDE, SEPTEMBER 12, 1897. By looking at the small picture of Skaguay made August 12, you will see how the magic city has improved in thirty days. (2087.)





1. SKAGWAY, JULY 26, 1897.—Showing the town site, where in three months' time a city containing 4,000 inhabitants was built up.

2. P. C. S. S. CO'S STEAMER "QUEEN" unloading the first load of Klondike miners at Skagway, after the excitement began. Capt. James Carroll, of this boat, was the first man to run a large steamer to the new wharf, and proved that the Skagway Harbor was of sufficient depth to be practicable for boats drawing seventeen feet of water.

3. SKAGWAY, AUGUST 12, 1897.— Showing the city all built up of tents. September 30 the tents had all disappeared and a well-built town, with broad streets and sidewalks and two and three story houses, had been completed; every line of business was represented.

4. MINERS AT SKAGWAY, AUGUST 12, 1897. Preparing for the journey to the Klondike.







SKAGUAY HARBOR, SHOWING POINT OF LAND SEPARATING DYEA BAY FROM SKAGUAY. This photo was taken September 12, 1897, at high tide, showing piles driven for one of the three wharfs that were in course of construction; also showing boats used in bringing passengers and outfits from the steamers to the shore, and for transporting from Skaguay to Dyea, around the point of land seen in the center of the picture. Distance from Skaguay to Dyea, five and one-half miles. When the tide is out the boats and scows are left high and dry on the beach, when wagons are driven to the boats and outfits unloaded and taken on the wagons up the trail to Ragtown, three and one-half miles. (2089)





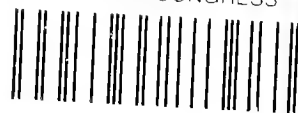








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